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CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN ATTENDS MEETING WITH ISRAELI LEADER

Last week Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) joined 14 other Congressmen in a closed door meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres. Peres, in Washington for urgent arms supply discussions with the U.S. Department of Defense, gave the Congressmen a frank appraisal of the current Middle East situation.

Though the meeting was "off the record," and those who attended agreed not to issue verbatim quotes of Peres' remarks, Peres did permit release to the public of the general outline of his presentation. According to Waxman, Peres placed especially heavy emphasis on the on-going Soviet involvement in the Middle East.

"The Defense Minister cited large-scale Russian arms shipments to Egypt and arms deliveries and substantial Soviet military-technical assistance to Syria," Waxman reported.

Peres told Waxman and the other Congressmen that Israel does not want to alter the military status quo in the region. He emphasized the belief of the Israeli government that because of stepped-up Soviet activity Israel needs substantial American help merely to keep pace with the Arabs.

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